

Senate Bill No. 964

Passed the Senate August 26, 2010

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 25, 2010

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2010, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 185039 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to workforce training, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 964, Alquist. Workforce development program: high-speed rail.

Existing law, the California High-Speed Train Act, creates the High-Speed Rail Authority to develop and implement a high-speed train system in the state, with specified powers and duties. Existing law, the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century, provides for the issuance of \$9.95 billion in general obligation bonds for high-speed rail and related purposes.

This bill would require the authority to contract with the Employment Development Department to develop a labor market assessment of the workforce and identify the education and skills needed for construction, operation, and maintenance of the high-speed train system. The bill, in that regard, would require the department to consult and work cooperatively with the Mineta Transportation Institute at the California State University at San Jose and to consult with other workforce assessment efforts, as specified. The bill would require the authority and the department to form an advisory committee, as specified, to advise the authority and the department on the availability of skilled labor relative to the high-speed train project and on options for workforce training programs in that regard. The bill would require the labor market assessment to be submitted to the Legislature and incorporated into the authority's biennial revised business plan.

This bill would appropriate \$500,000 from the High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Fund to the authority for these purposes, as specified. The bill would also make related legislative findings and declarations.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The construction of the 800-mile high-speed train system in California is estimated to be a 10-year construction project providing approximately 600,000 construction jobs and 450,000 permanent jobs for the California economy.

(b) Constructing, maintaining, and operating a high-speed train system will require a large traditional labor pool and many unique skill sets not typical in a more conventional transportation construction project. To fully construct a high-speed train system using California labor, there is a need for skilled and trained individuals in the fields of engineering and electrical power systems, materials experts, control system and computer system technicians, and specialized maintenance workers, among others. To ensure the availability of these labor skills and resources needed for construction of the high-speed train system and to maximize the extent of California labor force participation in the completion of the high-speed train system, it is crucial that the state immediately begin the actions necessary to achieve these resource goals and requirements.

(c) As a critical first step, it is important for the state to have a full assessment of the labor needs to plan for this transportation “mega project,” and to provide the necessary training and educational opportunities so that Californians, to the greatest extent possible, may participate in, and benefit from, this historic and transformative public works project.

(d) As part of its responsibilities and function to plan for the development of a high-speed train system in California, it is essential that the High-Speed Rail Authority work collaboratively with the state’s Employment Development Department, the University of California, California State University, California Community Colleges, the California Workforce Investment Board, the California Department of Education, and labor representatives and related organizations with expertise in trade apprenticeship programs, to assess the labor needs and recommend actions to ensure adequate workforce training is available for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a high-speed train system in this state.

(e) The Legislature finds and declares that it is appropriate to utilize funds from Proposition 1A of 2008, the Safe, Reliable, High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century (Chapter 20 (commencing with Section 2704) of Division 3 of the Streets and Highways Code), for the purposes set forth in Section 185039 of the Public Utilities Code, as added by this act.

SEC. 2. Section 185039 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

185039. (a) Pursuant to its duty to plan for the development of a high-speed train system in California, the authority shall contract with the Employment Development Department to collaboratively develop a labor market assessment of the workforce and identify the education and skills needed to (1) construct the high-speed train system authorized for bond funding under the Safe, Reliable, High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century (Chapter 20 (commencing with Section 2704) of Division 3 of the Streets and Highways Code) and (2) operate and maintain the high-speed train system, as necessary to aid the authority in planning the construction of the high-speed train system. The assessment shall include a recommended strategy to ensure workforce training programs are available to facilitate the availability of a skilled, in-state workforce to participate, to the maximum extent feasible, in the construction of the high-speed train system.

(b) In developing the high-speed rail workforce labor market assessment required pursuant to subdivision (a), the Employment Development Department shall consult and work cooperatively with the Mineta Transportation Institute at the California State University at San Jose. The department shall consider and utilize, where appropriate, the research and findings of the work activities of the institute as they relate to the assessment and shall utilize any relevant information and findings resulting from the institute's research and examination in developing the assessment. Likewise, the department shall collaborate with the institute and make available to it the information and results of the department's assessment. The department shall also consult with other current, ongoing assessment efforts related to California's rail transit workforce development.

(c) To achieve the objectives described in subdivision (a), the authority and the Employment Development Department shall

establish an advisory committee to advise both agencies on the availability and potential availability of skilled labor, by region, necessary to (1) construct the high-speed train system and (2) operate and maintain the high-speed train system, as necessary to aid the authority in planning the construction of the high-speed train system. In addition, the advisory committee shall advise both agencies on workforce training programs and funding options available, or proposed to be available, to ensure a qualified skilled workforce in California may participate in the construction of the high-speed train system.

(d) (1) Members of the advisory committee established pursuant to subdivision (c) shall include, but not be limited to, representatives from the following organizations:

(A) The authority.

(B) The state's higher education institutions, including the University of California, the California State University system, and the California Community College Chancellor's office.

(C) The California Workforce Investment Board.

(D) The State Department of Education.

(E) Labor organizations with expertise in operating apprenticeship programs for the skills necessary to build, operate, and maintain a high-speed train system.

(F) The Employment Training Panel.

(2) The authority may include parties in addition to those identified in paragraph (1) as members of the advisory committee.

(e) The assessment and recommendations developed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall consider the short-term and long-term labor needs for the project, including the need for specific skills in specific regions of the state.

(f) The assessment produced pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be submitted to the fiscal committees and the policy committees of the Legislature with jurisdiction over transportation and labor matters by January 1, 2012. The assessment shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code. This subdivision shall become inoperative on January 1, 2016, pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

(g) The assessment produced pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be incorporated in the authority's biennial revised business plan and submitted to the Legislature for its review pursuant to Section 185033.

(h) The sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is hereby appropriated from the High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Fund to the authority for purposes of this section. The funds appropriated for the purposes of this section shall be allocated from the funds set aside in subdivision (b) of Section 2704.08 of the Streets and Highways Code for environmental studies, planning, and preliminary engineering activities.

Approved _____, 2010

Governor